Stage-II which has recently been accepted by the Advisory Committee on 31.5.2000 subject to certain conditions. Irrigation being a State subject, such projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Consensus on the draft of National Water Policy

†1083. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no consensus have been reached on the draft of National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft of revised National Water Policy was placed before the fourth meeting of the National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister held on 7th July, 2000 for consideration/adoption. The deliberations established a broad consensus among the states on most of the issues contained in the proposed policy, however, some of the areas of differences were as under:—

(i) Legislation for developing standardized national information system.

(ii) Establishing appropriate River Basin Organisations with statutory powers.

(iii) Water Allocation amongst States, and

(iv) Amendment of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

In order to achieve greater convergence and agreement on these issues, the council has decided for constitution of a Working Group of Ministers of all the States/UTs chaired by Hon'ble Minister of water Resources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.